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140-10-1  
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IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (2 May 67) FOR **OT-UT-670112** 10 May 1967

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ **Lessons Learned, 504th Military Police Battalion (Army) (U)**

**Headquarters**

AD 510928

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 504th Military Police Battalion (Army) for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 504TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION (ARMY)  
APO 96238

AVBGF-K

10 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January  
1967 (CSFOR-65)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

## SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION AND UNIT ACTIVITIES (U)

1. (U) PURPOSE: In accordance with paragraph 12a (1) (b), AR 1-19, this report covers the significant activities of the 504th Military Police Battalion (A) during the period 1 November 1966 to 31 January 1967.

2. (C) PERIOD OF 1 NOVEMBER 1966 TO 31 JANUARY 1967: During this past quarter the battalion continued to provide military police support throughout the II Corps area of South Vietnam. This included support to Provost Marshal Offices in eight (8) cities as well as PW evacuation from tactical units and hospitals, convoy escorts and road security and traffic control on roads within the II Corps area. Key personnel assignments and significant changes within the unit were as follows:

Captain Needham:	CO, Company B	9 December 1966
Captain Carusi:	Battalion S-4	13 December 1966
1st SGT Sanderfer:	Company A	7 January 1967
1st SGT Campany:	Company B	13 January 1967
1st SGT Blansett:	Company C	16 January 1967

### a. Personnel, Moral, and Discipline:

(1) There were no reported cases of malaria within the unit for this reporting period. All personnel received additional instructions on the causes of the disease and methods to avoid contacting it.

(2) There were 21 cases of venereal disease reported. Increased emphasis has been placed on the moral and physical aspects of the disease, including briefing to personnel going on R&K, where many VD contacts are reported.

(3) Approximately 85% of all R&R allocations were utilized during the period. This represents an increase from 65% utilization reported during the previous quarter.

Hq 504th MP Bn Log No.  
AVBGF-K 504/1/67/C

Inclosure 1

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(4) The plaster expenditure reduction program has produced significant results. All vehicle washing is now done on-post. A refrigerator unit, obtained by the EM Club (Sundry Fund), will result in the reduction of ice previously purchased on the local economy. Expenditures for ice had amounted to nearly \$800 per month during the hot season.

(5) Participation by members of the battalion in all saving programs remained at a nearly constant 94%. Participation in Soldiers Deposits increased to 20% and further participation is expected.

(6) Assigned strength of the battalion as of 31 January 1967 was 23 officers and 505 enlisted men. Projected 90 day losses were 240.

(7) The battalion experienced 13 traffic accidents during the period, while accumulating a total of 768,878 miles. There were 4 personal injury accidents in an exposure of 51,418 man days.

(8) Disciplinary actions during the period included one (1) Special Court Martial, three (3) Summary Courts Martial, and twenty-four actions under Article 15, UCMJ.

(9) The battalion self-help construction program continued during the period; the total barracks space (8 buildings) and administrative space (1 building) amounting to over 17,000 square feet of buildings erected since the beginning of the program in July 1966.

## b. (U) Intelligence and Counterintelligence:

(1) Intelligence: Local US tactical units, MACV units, and US advisors to ARVN and ROK elements continue to provide items of local intelligence matters. Intelligence spot report; primarily concerning road security and convoy escort operations are forwarded from battalion to higher headquarters.

(2) Counterintelligence: A total of 267 security actions were processed during the period. These included 78 validations of clearances, initiation of 28 requests for clearances, 136 local files checks, and 20 cryptographic clearances granted. One denial of Secret clearance was processed.

## c. (C) Plans, Operations, and Training:

(1) Military policemen of this battalion were provided for the support of provincial marshal offices in Qui Nhon, Pleiku, Nha Trang, Kontum, An Hoa, Jalat. Ban Me Thout, Tuy Hoa, and Phan Rang.

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(2) The battalion provided military police in support of the following tactical operations:

(a) Operation Thayer II with the 1st Air Cavalry Division (AM) in Binh Dinh Province. A total of 27 military policemen were employed in this mission daily, during this reporting period.

(b) Operation Road Runner: a continuing operation throughout II Corps involving road security, convoy escort and traffic control along all roads used by US Forces.

(3) OPLAN ESQUIRE was published by the battalion to augment the plan of 16th MP Group (OPLAN PARKER) which designated a new military police task organization within II Corps. This operation is now being placed into effect. Elements of the 97th and 93rd MP Battalions are phasing into provost marshal operations in Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Dalat and Ban Me Thout, as directed by OPLAN PARKER. This battalion will concentrate on close combat support of tactical operations, convoy escort, road security, PW evacuation, and maintain support to provost marshals in An Khe, Tuy Hoa, Pleiku and Kham.

(4) A total of 171 prisoners of war were evacuated by A and C companies to the Combat Captive (PW) Cage in Pleiku. Primary pick-up sites were from the tactical units in the area and from hospitals in Qui Nhon and Nha Trang.

## d. (C) Communications Activities:

(1) The entire battalion is now equipped with the new AN/VRC 46 and 47 radios. The radios have greatly facilitated operations through their greatly extended range. Communications tests have been conducted for proposed relays from Pleiku to Qui Nhon and from Bong Son to Tuy Hoa.

(2) A request for on-line cryptographic equipment, to be operated in conjunction with the AN/GRC-46 RTT facility, has been submitted, based on an approved plan for security of the equipment.

## e. (U) Logistics:

(1) The battalion S-4 conducted monthly supply management technical inspections of all units. Overall, the units have shown marked improvement in supply matters despite shortages in trained supply personnel.

(2) Severe shortages have developed in 1-ton trucks. This is largely due to extensive use of all vehicles over poor roads,

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and, in many cases, from being overloaded due to weapons, necessary sand-bags as a caution against land mines, and armor plating.

(3) A shortage of 2½ ton trucks developed for the first time, during this quarter. The battalion is presently 30% short and another 20% are ready for salvage.

(4) A total of 36 modular armor kits are on-hand in the battalion, with 24 more per company on requisition. Use of the armor kits in two ambushes prevented death or more severe wounds to all personnel. Two hostile rounds did penetrate the armor on one vehicle, indicating the need for heavier plating.

## SECTION II (C)

### COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PART I (C) OBSERVATIONS (Lessons Learned) (U)

##### 1. (FOUO) PERSONNEL

###### ITEM: Plaster Control

DISCUSSION: The program of plaster control is difficult to enforce in its entirety in the area of personal necessities. Laundry facilities and wall and footlockers, for example, are requirements but are not available.

OBSERVATION: That such necessity type items, if available thru army channels, would result in a great reduction of plaster spending.

##### 2. (U) OPERATIONS

###### ITEM: Evacuation of PW

DISCUSSION: During this period many PW's were evacuated to the Combat Captive Cage with incomplete capture cards. The origin of the omissions was with MI units who did not complete the cards either in tactical units or in hospitals. It is impractical to refuse to evacuate PW's with incomplete cards since space in capturing units' collecting points or beds in hospitals is needed for newly arriving PW's.

OBSERVATION: All PW cards are initiated by the capturing unit, but many are left incomplete.

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## 3. (C) OPERATIONS

### ITEM: Modular Armor Plating Protection

DISCUSSION: The modular armor plating kit, as now issued, provides no protection to the rear passenger/gunner since the back plate is designed to extend across the backs of the front seats only. This plate also restricts the traverse of a pedestal mounted M-60 to 180 degrees.

OBSERVATION: Existing armor plate kits are unsatisfactory in that they do not provide protection for the rear passenger/gunner and hinder the 360 degree traverse of a pedestal mounted machine gun. Unit modification is required to correct the deficiencies. (See photo, attached)

## 4. (C) OPERATIONS

### ITEM: Modular Armor Plating Penetration

DISCUSSION: Armor plating mounted on a  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton vehicle sustained several hits during an ambush. Two small caliber rounds of an unknown type penetrated the armor. Unit tests later revealed that neither M-14 nor M-16 rounds would penetrate the armor at a range of 30 meters from either a 90 or 45 degree angle. Caliber 50 rounds penetrated with ease from both angles. M-60 machine gun rounds (two) penetrated only on a 90 degree angle, while other M-60 rounds at the same range and angle were deflected.

OBSERVATION: Modular armor plating, while a definite asset in protecting lives, should be either heavier or of better quality.

## 5. (C) OPERATIONS

### ITEM: Military Police Highway Patrols

DISCUSSION: The trail vehicle of a double (2 vehicle) patrol, travelling at intervals of 75 meters or less, enters the kill-zone of a highway ambush site within seconds after the lead vehicle has come under fire. Thus, the trail vehicle is unable to return suppressive fire in time to support the lead vehicle before both are under attack.

OBSERVATION: Intervals between patrol vehicle should never be less than 125-150 meters to insure that the trail vehicle, not receiving fire, can bring fire against the ambush force, in support of the lead vehicle. Interval may be varied to even greater distances in more open terrain.

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## PART II (C) RECOMMENDATIONS (U)

1. (C) OPERATIONS: Improved armor plating kits for 4 ton vehicles should be made available for all military police units. Heavier or more penetration-resistant plate, plus a design to permit full enclosure of the vehicle is essential. Kits should include modification of shock absorbers and suspension systems to avoid damage to the standard M151A vehicle.

2 Incl  
Photograph  
Organizational Structure

*W. D. Getz*  
WILBUR D. GETZ  
LTC, MPC  
Commanding

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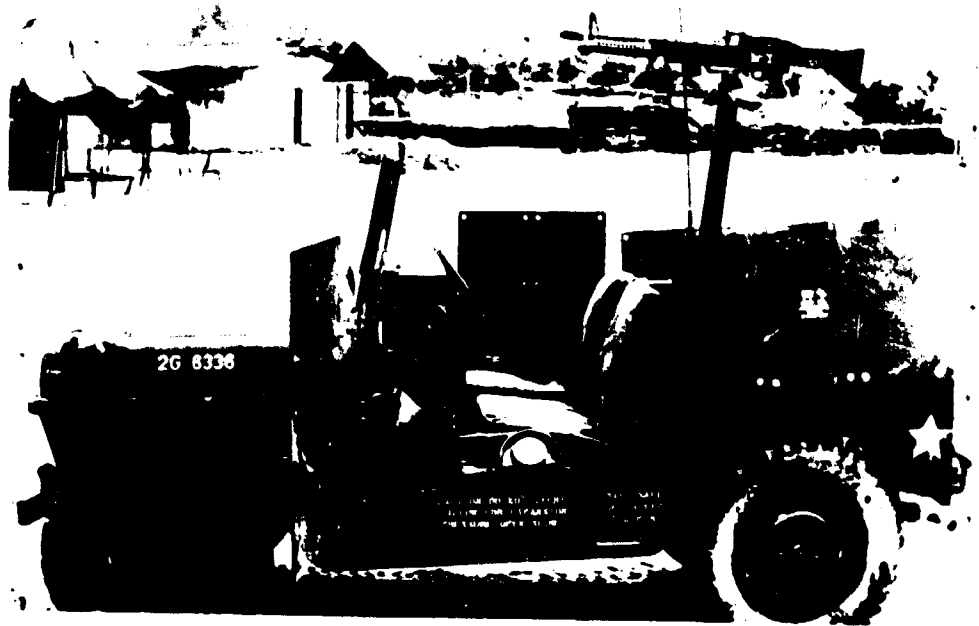
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Inclosure 1

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE  
HQS, 504th Military Police Battalion

ASSIGNED UNITS:

HHD, 504th Military Police Battalion  
Company A/504  
Company B/504  
Company C/504

ATTACHED UNITS:

None

Enclosure 2

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AVRGE (10 February 1967) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
(CSFOR-65) (U)

Headquarters, 16th Military Police Group, APO 96240, 24 February 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 of the 504th Military Police Battalion is forwarded herewith.

2. (C) This headquarters has reviewed the report, considers it adequate, concurs with the observations and recommendations and adds the following comments:

a. (C) Reference Section I, paragraph 2d(2): The battalion's request for issue of on-line cryptographic equipment has been approved. Equipment will be installed upon receipt.

b. (U) Reference Section I, paragraph 2e(1): All three companies within the battalion are currently short supply sergeants. These personnel are on requisition and, as an interim measure, OJT personnel are performing the function of unit supply sergeant.

c. (U) Reference Section I, paragraph 2e(2) & (3): An acute shortage of vehicles has an adverse effect on the battalion's ability to fulfill mission requirements. Certain shortages are a result of combat loss, and immediate replacements have not been available although authorized. Follow-up action has been taken on all requisitions and is being closely monitored by this headquarters.

d. (FOUO) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 1: This headquarters has initiated a program by which it monitors the plaster spending of all assigned units. A monthly survey of plaster spending is required of all companies and detachments as an aid in determining whether the objectives of the program are being met. It further assists in the elimination of problem areas before they develop serious proportions.

e. (U) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 2: Commanders of units which effect the capture of PW, and MI Detachments responsible for classification, must insure that the PW Capture Card is properly completed. Each subsequent action taken in the chain of evacuation is severely hampered when previous actions are in error.

f. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 3: The modification in the mounting of the armor plating on the 1/4 ton vehicle offers additional protection for the gunner with a resultant loss in protection

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AVBGF (10 February 1967) 24 February 1967  
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(CSFOR-65) (U)

for personnel occupying the front seats. The battalion has requisitioned the new modular armor plate kits and, meanwhile, continues to use the current kits to their maximum advantage.

*Louis J. Klekas*  
LOUIS J. KLEKAS  
Colonel, MPC  
Commanding

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